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DDI #

2772-77

25 July 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Acting Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM : James P. Lynch
Director of Geographic and Cartographic Research
Directorate of Intelligence

SUBJECT : Declassification of CIA's Soviet Grain Estimate

1. Action Requested: Your approval of the recommendations contained in paragraph 6.

2. Background: This memorandum responds to your query of 2 June 1977 regarding the declassification of our estimates of Soviet grain production and the legal implications thereof with respect to grain speculation. Since that time I, along with [redacted] of OGC/CIA, have had separate meetings with the legal counsels of [redacted] to ascertain their particular concerns with CIA pursuing a course of action suggested in your query. A summation of the meetings with USDA and NASA is contained in an earlier memo to you from [redacted] dated 27 June 1977 (Attachment 1). The meeting with Department of State legal advisers was held 11 July 1977, the details of which are contained in a Memorandum for the Record by [redacted] dated 15 July 1977 (Attachment 2).

3. Declassification of the Estimate: USDA is the principal agency concerned with declassifying the CIA estimate of Soviet grain production. It was pointed out to the USDA that if the Intelligence Community could not restrict its foreign crop estimates on national security grounds, there would be no basis to restrict release of the estimate unless other U.S. codes or statutes are applicable. Currently, the USDA does not, as is the case with domestic crop estimates, restrict foreign crop data. It is the current feeling within the new USDA administration that foreign crop estimates are "market sensitive" and therefore should be accorded the same restrictive treatment as domestic crop estimates. Legal judgments within the USDA are that existing codes and statutes dealing with "market sensitive" information are sufficient to establish restrictive

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procedures within the Department for handling foreign crop estimates. Recommendations in favor of such controls are presently being formulated for consideration by Secretary Bergland. The Secretary's decision on this matter will have to be taken into account in deciding the handling and distribution of unclassified CIA foreign crop estimates.

4. In a related matter, you know that the USDA is establishing a World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board which will be the Department's official body for producing estimates of foreign crop production using all-source data including CIA's estimates. Although the specifics have not been worked out, it is understood that CIA will be invited to participate. I recently coordinated with Maurice Ernst, Director, OER, on a memo to you on this subject (Attachment 3) which recommended CIA participation on the Board with the condition that CIA reserves the right to publish its estimate independent of the Board. This arrangement needs to be further resolved with the USDA as there are senior USDA officials who question the need for two U.S. Government estimates. In any event, we need to assure USDA that any publication of CIA's foreign crop estimates -- classified or unclassified -- will be compatible with the spirit and intent of the USDA to control "market sensitive" data.

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6. Recommendations

a. When possible, CIA foreign crop estimates should be sanitized and submitted to USDA estimative bodies as unclassified inputs.

APPROVED : /s/ Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: Director of Central Intelligence

DATE : 15 AUG 1977

b. CIA reserves its right to provide both classified and unclassified foreign crop estimative reports to senior U.S. policymakers independent of the USDA reporting channels. (Suggest that we seek the Secretary of Agriculture's concurrence on the list of non-USDA recipients.)

APPROVED : /s/ Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: Director of Central Intelligence

DATE : 15 AUG 1977

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APPROVED : /s/ Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: Director of Central Intelligence

DATE : 11/11/07

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DISAPPROVED: Director of Central Intelligence

DATE : 14.11.2014

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DISAPPROVED: Director of Central Intelligence

DATE : _____

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APPROVED : /s/ Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: Director of Central Intelligence

DATE : 15 AUG 1977

James P. Lynch

Attachments: 3
As stated above

Distribution: (each with Attachments)

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SUBJECT: Declassification of CIA's Soviet Grain Estimate

CONCUR in Recommendations 6. a, b, c, d, e, f:

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Deputy Director for Intelligence

Date